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JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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Volume 24



Number 2

2013

**1909 Barber Quarter**



**Art or Graffiti?**

**One of three interesting quarters  
submitted by Ralph Vignola**

**See page 13**

*Photo courtesy of Brian Ribar*



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JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein  
ANA Club Member C-146266

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## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new issue of the *BCCS Journal*. As I write this message on Memorial Day weekend, I have no idea what will appear in this issue which we all will hold in our hands a month hence. I am confident the content will be an interesting read and provide useful information to our members.

There is one thought in my mind as I considered this message: the American Numismatic Association Convention known as the ANA "World's Fair of Money." This annual convention is held in the summer and brings a variety of attendees, the very young and the very senior, each interested in numismatics, ready to learn more, and see coins, medals, currency and related items in dealer cases and in superb exhibits. This event attracts attendees from across the US and nearby countries and from Europe and Asia. How many persons attend? Easily thousands, probably 10,000 for this 2013 convention. Do you need to be an ANA member? No, but you may decide this action is appropriate while you experience an ANA convention. Where and when this event will take place:

**Chicago, IL, August 13 to 17 at the Donald Stephens Convention Center**

The Convention Center is close to O'Hare Airport and near major interstate highways. Top-notch hotels are nearby and affordable. Family-friendly motels are within a mile or two. Chicago has proven itself as a top setting for the summer ANA Convention. Note the Stephens Convention Center is located in Rosemont next to O'Hare which is in Chicago.

I need to add information about the Barber annual meeting at ANA. Last year we decided to move this meeting from Saturday (now the last convention day) to a day in the midst of the event. Here it is:

**BCCS Meeting—Wednesday, August 14, 9:00 to 10:30 AM in Room 6**

I appreciate the ANA Convention department providing us with this convenient time slot. Please make a note of this meeting and I hope we pack the room with new and familiar faces.

If I can provide any local information, please contact me by Email.

Numismatic regards,  
*Phil Carrigan*

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## Upcoming BCCS Regional Meetings

There are many coin shows scheduled during the next few months. Consider attending one in your area.

- **Whitman Baltimore Expo**, Baltimore Convention Center. Club Meeting Friday, June 21, 3:00 p.m., Room 330.
- **ANA Worlds Fair of Money**, Donald Stephens Convention Center, Chicago, IL, August 13-17. **Annual BCCS Meeting** Wednesday, August 14, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Room 6. The BCCS *may* have a Club Table for one day -- stay tuned.
- **Bay State Coin Show**, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlboro, MA, September 6-7. The BCCS will have a Club Table on the bourse floor.
- **Whitman Philadelphia Expo**, Philadelphia Convention Center, September 19-21.
- **New Hampshire Coin Expo**, Center of New Hampshire, Manchester, NH, October 4-5. BCCS will have a Club Table on the bourse floor.
- **Baltimore Expo**, Baltimore Convention Center, Friday, November 8, 3:00 p.m.

Please see our website for locations and exact meeting times, as these normally get confirmed closer to the show dates.

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS Aug. 25th**



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# Two Interesting Barber Quarters

By Evan Kopald

I would like to share this photo of my late die state 1896 AU Barber Quarter with the membership.

One can see the die break that developed alongside Miss Liberty's nose, beginning where the eyebrow terminates and the field begins. The die break (sometimes they look like a scratch, but die breaks rise above the surface) ends at the tip of the nose where a little cud forms, as a corresponding piece of the die has fallen off. The shape of the cud resembles a tiny upside-down microphone and the raised line (in my imagination) resembles the microphone's cord. Consequently, I call it "microphone nose."



Additionally, this coin has another fine die crack that dangles downward from Liberty's ear, much in the same fashion as the one on the 13-S, but this one is shorter. It cannot be clearly seen in the photo.

What other die states are out there waiting for discovery?

I have another EF-1896 that does not have the break on the nose nor the dangling break.

And yes, I was able to take this photo with my new iPhone.



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The photographs of this PCGS AU-58 1893-O Barber Quarter show its obverse and reverse clash marks. On the obverse, they appear as ovoid shapes that project from Liberty's nose and chin into the field before her face. There are additional clash marks behind her head that appear between the inside ribbon and the neck.



The reverse clash marks appear just to the left of the eagle's beak at the first star and the star directly above it. This mark almost resembles a positive image of Liberty's nose.

These photos were taken with a Celestron microscope model 004-589.





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# BCCS Regional Update

By **John Frost**, BCCS Regional Program Director

As we enter the summer months, the number of shows decrease a bit, but we look forward to our Annual Meeting at the ANA in August. But we had a busy spring this year.

In rapid succession, we had either meetings or club tables, or both, at a number of shows. Our Baltimore meeting had about a dozen attendees which is fairly typical, and pretty good, considering that our meeting was Friday at 3 p.m., right in the middle of the afternoon on the bourse.



The same weekend, we set up a club table for the Mansfield (CT) Numismatic Society, a once-per-year show that attracts attendees from all over southern New England, introducing guests to Barber coinage and national coin clubs, as most of the people at this show don't typically get to Baltimore or other large shows. This type of activity can bring big benefits, so if you attend a local coin club show, consider hosting a meeting!

April brought us Central States. Although there was no room on the bourse floor like last year, Vern Sebby hosted a small informal meeting on Friday of that week. A few folks just sat around a table and shared experiences and coins with each other.



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By the time this gets to you, it will be about the time for Baltimore's summer show in June where we will have our usual meeting on Friday at 3:00, at which time we will be discussing the prospects for having a club table for one day at the summer ANA in Chicago, and lining up our fall schedule. We are also trying to figure out how to get more activity going out west and down south (except for FUN). Other national coin clubs have also tried and had little luck, so we are open to creative suggestions. Perhaps we may try a different set of shows.

Also, my apologies – in the past months, your Regional Director and Web-master has gotten crushingly busy at work, and I had fallen behind on some critical website updates, such as show schedules, and finally posting the Quarters Varieties Survey results. All should be up to date and posted now, finally!

If you want to help the BCCS, please help us at a Local or Regional Show. Many club shows will give collector clubs a table on the bourse floor. It is a win-win: it helps bring collectors to their shows, and it helps the clubs. There is no better way to meet other Barber enthusiasts and it is great fun -- just ask any of us who have spent time behind a table! And you can help promote the club, and introduce people to Barber coinage. Please send email to [BCCS@barbercoins.org](mailto:BCCS@barbercoins.org). If you want to host a meeting at a local show, you can also check out resources at: [www.barbercoins.org/regional.html](http://www.barbercoins.org/regional.html).

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings!

## **WE BUY AND SELL BARBER HALVES • QUARTERS • DIMES**

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# Barber Bits

Bill Cowburn

Long-time BCCS member and Journal contributor, Bill Cowburn of York, Pa passed away Feb. 24th after a long battle with cancer.

Bill attended many of our BCCS meetings at shows and was an early supporter of what eventually became the BCCS Regional Program. He wrote numerous articles on Barber hub varieties, mintmark varieties and positions, and a number of other topics. Barber Quarters were a particular area of interest.

In the March issue of the eGobrecht, Bill Bugert (LSCC eGobrecht editor and neighbor/friend of Bill) wrote:

“Bill was a collector for over 30 years and has a great deal of knowledge of the Bust and Liberty Seated series, especially Bust and Liberty Seated half dollars and Trade dollars. He has had numismatic articles published in *The Numismatist*, *The Gobrecht Journal*, *The Centinel*, and *The Journal* of the Barber Coin Collectors’ Society. He won the Wagner Award as well as several awards for his articles including a Heath Literary Award from the ANA for his article “How Rare is Rare.” He exhibited and judged exhibits for several years. His exhibit “A Transitional 1876 Proof Trade Dollar” won 1st place in the U.S. Coin category and was 1st runner-up in the Best-of- Show judging at the 2006 ANA Convention. He was a speaker at the ANA Convention, FUN, CSNS, and PAN as well as at local clubs. He was Vice President of the York Coin Club, and supervised educational programs for that club and the Red Rose Coin Club. He served as president of the Red Rose Coin Club and was the Membership Chairperson for several years. Bill was a member of ANA, LSCC, JRCS, BHNC, EAC, ANS, the Civil War Tokens Society, and several regional and local coin clubs.”

Bill will be greatly missed by the Barber Society and the entire numismatic community.



## *Letter to the Editor*

This writer wants to know how on earth did PCGS grade the Walton 1913 Liberty Nickel Proof 63? Okay, I’ll admit that I haven’t seen it in hand, just from the photos on-line and in the Heritage catalog and, of course, on the cover of our *Journal*, so my judgment is biased. What is all that gook on both sides of the



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piece? Toning? All the stars are surrounded by what looks to me like debris that may be obtained from circulation. And what is that dark line on her neck that extends from her neck to the jaw line? It looks like a scratch. How does one account for these inconsistencies on a Proof 63 coin?

I recall reading in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, 1935-1975, that Walton used his nickel as a pocket piece. I didn't get a feeling from the article that it was in any sort of holder. According to the Heritage catalog, the coin changed hands in the late forties selling for around a thousand bucks. Back in 1962 when he was killed in an auto accident, Walton may well have had it in his pocket. Even though the Heritage information that the coins were struck on unpolished planchets and lack the usual features we expect to see in a proof coin, that does not account for the various rubbish on the coin. But, hey, what do you want for a miserly \$3,172,500. Perfection?

Evan Kopald



## Barber Quarter Challenge

Submitted by Evan Kopald

Can you name 6 groups of thirteen on the Barber Quarter reverse?

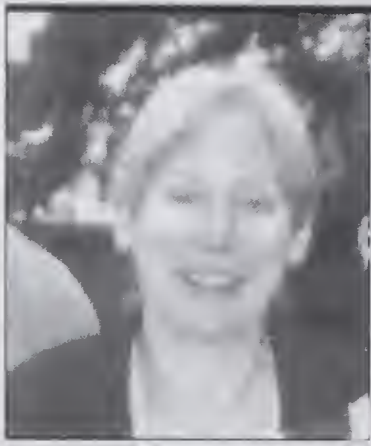
What are the three years that Barber Quarters were minted in all four mints?

Answers can be found on page 21.



## Dave Lawrence Barber Books now On-line at DLRC Website

All three David Lawrence Barber coin books - *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, as well as *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage* by David Lawrence & John Feigenbaum - are available at the DLRC on-line library website: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>. Click on "Reference Books" and scroll down to the book title you want. Access is free. No membership required.



## BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Barber coins are creating quite a stir in the numismatic news lately. Two coin dealers, Larry Lee and Jeff Garrett, purchased the Walton 1913 Liberty Head Nickel in the April Heritage Auction in Schaumburg, IL for \$3,172,500. Interestingly, Mr. Garrett was part of the team of experts that authenticated the nickel at the ANA's "World Fair of Money" in Baltimore in 2003. The new owners put their prized acquisition on display at the ANA "National Money Show" held in New Orleans May 9-11.

I recently received the promotion for the Heritage Platinum Night and Signature Auctions to be held August 8-9 at the Chicago Summer 2013 Show. The Greensboro Collection, Part IV, contains 1893, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1900, 1903, 1910, 1912, 1913 and 1915 Barber Dimes, all PR67 or 68.

The Owen Collection, Part I, offers 1893, 1895, 1895-O, 1896-S, 1901, 1901-S, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912 and 1913 Barber Quarters in MS65, MS-66 or PR68. The Owen Collection also includes some beautiful Barber Half Dollars: 1892, 1892-O, 1898, 1898-S, 1901-S, 1904-S, 1910 and 1914-S.

The collections will be on display at several major coin shows before the actual auction in August.

Recently I received an email from a member inquiring if BCCS has ever considered membership ads in the *Journal* for the membership? He is a member of the Early American Coppers Club whose bi-monthly journal has an active advertisement section in each issue. He added that he enjoys trading, buying, and selling coins to club members via club journals such as the EAC club.

Well, the Barber Society does offer such a service. Called "Barber Barter," it is available to every BCCS member at no cost. Its purpose is for trading Barber coins only. Ads are limited to 50 words. It appears in the *Journal* only when requested by a member. Sample ads from past issues -

For trade: My choice original problem-free PCGS AU55 1894 dime for your choice original problem-free PCGS AU55 or AU58 1894 or 1895 quarter. Will consider NGC, ANACS, or ICG certified coin. Phone NAME xxx-xxx-xxxx or email: -----@aol.com.

I need a 1913-S 25c in V6 or better. Please help. Scott. Email: -----@sbcglobal.net.

On pages 6 and 7, you saw photos taken by member **Evan Kopald** of two



Barber Quarters exhibiting die breaks and die clash marks. Member **Ralph Vignola** submitted the three Barber Quarters seen below to be photographed and shared with you. I do not understand why anyone would wish to carve lettering or drawings into silver coinage, but it is done and it does make for some interesting coins.



## BCCS Advertisement Rates

1/8 page	1 issue.....\$12	4 issues.....\$40
1/4 page	1 issue.....\$20	4 issues.....\$70
1/2 page	1 issue.....\$30	4 issues.....\$100
1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250
1 page inside front - rear cover	1 issue..\$80	4 issues.....\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue...\$125	4 issues.....\$400

# When Will Barber Halves Drift Back into Favor?

By **Paul M. Green**

For some reason most people seem to think of the Barber half dollar as only a type coin. Certainly in a 20th century type set, the Barber half - now at roughly \$3,000 in MS-65 - is the key. But what many collectors have learned is that Barber halves can make a very interesting collection in other grades by themselves.

Over the years, Barber halves have had periods of popularity followed by periods where they seem to drift into the background with apparently lessened collector interest. Such slow cycles make for a great time to begin a Barber half dollar collection at modest prices, making Barber half dollars the right coins at the right time for many looking for a new and interesting collection.

The Barber half dollar may go through slow periods in part because it was produced in both the 19th and 20th century, not falling neatly into one era. It could also be because the design has never really excited many collectors. With a high face value and considering its introduction to circulation at a time when there were not many collectors, the Barber half set might well be called a sleeper. The numbers of coins available in many grades today are not as high as we might expect. If anything, the Barber half is a primarily 20th century coin, but with available supplies that are much more typical of the 19th century.

The design of the Barber half dollar was the result of a long and not very successful effort on the part of officials to find new designs for dime, quarter and half dollar. Certainly officials had the best of intentions as, after getting a change in the law to put them on solid ground in terms of making changes, they promptly invited a group of the nation's ten leading artists including Augustus Saint-Gaudens, J.Q.A. Ward, Daniel French, Olin Warner Herbert, Herbert Adams, Charles S. Niehaus, Miller MacMonies, Kenyon Cox, Will S. Low and H.S. Mowbray to submit designs.

The invitation to the artists was perilously close to a case of no good deed going unpunished, at least in the eyes of officials who were apparently stunned when the artists responded with a list of conditions for their participation in the



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design competition. It was not a promising start, as officials had felt they were giving the artists a great opportunity.

The whole thing may have simply been a classic misunderstanding, the artists seeing the invitation as simply another in a possibly long line of such invitations involving them using their creative talents for seemingly worthwhile projects but with very little pay.

Whatever the actual feelings, the matter was quickly dropped. Officials turned to an alternative plan which involved a national competition. That might have worked, and actually did not close the door to the famous artists' participation if they had a change of heart, but the three men selected to judge the competition did not make this route much easier on officials.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was the most famous artist of the day, but he felt that only he and perhaps a couple artists in France were qualified to design a coin. In the case of the second judge, Chief Engraver Charles Barber, there was a similar problem; Barber felt that only he was qualified (despite the fact that his assistant, George T. Morgan, had already designed a coin in the form of the Morgan dollar). With two of the three judges already on record as having strong views about who was qualified to design a coin, it was unlikely that the third judge, Boston seal and gem engraver Henry Mitchell, would be likely to convince the other two to select a single design - even if a great one was submitted.

As it turned out, there was serious question as to whether any of the designs received were any good. None were judged the winner and one official was forced to admit that the whole thing was a "wretched failure." With that, officials simply turned to Charles Barber who was already on the payroll, and assigned him the task of designing the new coins. Even that did not go all that smoothly, probably making officials question why they had ever gotten involved in changing designs in the first place. Eventually, the design of the Barber dime, quarter and half dollar was approved.

The Barber half dollar was introduced in 1892, with initial mintages of 935,245 coins at Philadelphia, 1,029,028 in San Francisco, and 390,000 in New Orleans. Of the three, the Philadelphia is the most available at \$27.50 in G-4, \$415 in MS-60 and \$3,000 in MS-65. The higher mintage 1892-S is \$230 in G-4, \$900 in MS-60 and \$5,250 in MS-65, with the 1892--O at \$275 in G-4, \$850 in MS-60 and \$4,200 in MS-65. There is also an 1892-O with a small "O" and it is \$2,000 in G-4 and \$55,000 in MS-65. A population report from the Professional Coin Grading Service shows just four examples ever graded in MS-60; the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation's report supports that scarcity, showing just two graded in

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MS-60 or better.

The prices and availability show us something about Barber half dollar collecting of the time. We have reason to believe there were relatively few collectors back then, an observation based on declining proof sales. The Philadelphia area seems to have been the place where more collecting was going on, explaining why the Philadelphia 1892 is much more available than coins produced in New Orleans or San Francisco.

There is another factor in that a half dollar was a high denomination for many at the time. Not only were they not saved by many in 1892, but also in the following years because few people were collecting half dollars from circulation. Although such tough Barber half dollars were in circulation, few even in the 1940s and 1950s were attempting to save Barber halves. While they were still in circulation, attempting to put together a set as the years passed was increasingly difficult.

We see the effects of uneven saving of dates throughout the Barber half dollar set. The earlier dates tend to be tougher than expected while some later dates, issued after a collecting boom was spawned by new designs 1909-1916, are surprisingly available. At higher prices in G-4 are the 1897-S and the 1893-S, both at \$135 today. The 1893-S is relatively low mintage at 740,000 and the 1897-S is under a million. Other better dates include the 1897-O at \$100, which had a lower mintage than either the 1893-S or 1897-S, while the 1896-S is a typical early date with a mintage of 1,140,948 but a price today in G-4 of \$80.

At the other extreme, there are some surprisingly inexpensive dates, especially the Philadelphia 1913 (mintage 188,627), 1914 (mintage 124,610) and 1915 (mintage 138,450) which, despite those low mintage totals, in G-4 are priced at \$38.50, \$68.50 and \$50, and with those mintages you have to think they are excellent values.

In all probability, their later mintages allowed them to be in circulation for a longer period, giving later generations of collectors a chance to pull and save them. By comparison, a number of earlier dates that had higher mintages are in the same price range, probably because they were never saved in the same numbers as known lower-mintage dates. In that older group, we see the \$25 1895-S (mintage 1,108,086), the \$27.50 1898-O (mintage 874,000), the \$32.50 1893-O (mintage 1,389,000), the \$32.50 1896-O (mintage 924,000), and the \$27.50 1904-S (mintage 553,038).

It is more than simple speculation that the Barber half dollar was circulating for a long time. In the 1990s, the Littleton Coin Company purchased what was



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an extraordinary hoard which they dubbed "The New York City Subway Hoard" because it was assembled by a New York City Transit Authority employee by the name of Morris Moscow, with the help of a coin dealer friend, George Shaw, starting in the 1940s. The hoard contained a remarkable 24 complete sets of Barber halves. Of course it was an extraordinary amount of change to examine, and an average collector would have had no chance at such numbers.

Equally interesting, however, were the numbers of individual coins in the set. In the case of Barber half dollars, there were 14 examples of the 1892-O, eight of the 1892-S, six of the 1893-S, 17 of the 1896-S, 16 of the 1897-O, 10 of the 1897-S, 22 of the 1898-O, 16 of the 1901-S, 29 of the 1913, 25 of the 1914, and 36 of the 1915. In the case of many of these dates, they had been in circulation 45 years or more yet they were still circulating.

It must also be remembered that the Barber half dollar was a 90-percent silver coin. After circulating for a period of 45 years, the coin would be heavily circulated, and it is certainly not out of the question that many earlier dates had already been retired and destroyed by the time Morris Moscow began checking the change in the New York Subway System.

Another factor is that the "New York City Subway Hoard," however extraordinary, was still only a small fraction of the coins in circulation. Other coins circulating in other regions surely were not all saved, and that would mean later losses even of all dates. By the 1950s, when the Barber half dollar was not being found with any regularity, some were saving any they found, but by then the coins in many cases could barely be identified. In fact, years later when silver was \$50 an ounce, even things like low-grade Barber half dollars would have been melted.

Simply put, the signs are everywhere that, while we might think a G-4 or VG-8 collection of Barber half dollars is easily assembled, the facts are that the supplies are almost certainly not as strong as they once were, especially when you are talking solid, no-problem, lower-grade examples. Just how strong supplies really are will be known only when there is greater demand, but the strong suspicion is that the Barber half dollar is not tougher than one might expect in lower grades as well as upper grades. There is no good evidence other than Morris Moscow and the "New York City Subway Hoard" that there were many, if any, seriously saving Barber halves.

The result is that a circulated Barber half dollar collection is a mixture of interesting dates with a pricing pattern that earlier dates are tougher and more costly while the later dates are relatively inexpensive, especially considering their mintages.

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In upper circulated grades, however, many Barber half dollars can prove to be very tough when you reach VF-20 or higher.

With relatively small numbers collecting half dollars at the time, the Barber half can also prove to be a challenging set in Mint State - but with relatively small demand, prices are still reasonable. It remains a case where there is no pattern based on mintages, as the key date in MS-60 is the 1904-S with its 553,038 mintage. The 1904-S in that grade is \$6,250, over three times the price of the second-most-expensive date, the 1901-S, which is currently at \$1,800 in MS-60. There are a number of other dates in the \$1,000-or-higher range, like the 1893-S, 1896-O, 1896-S, 1897-O, 1897-S, 1898-O, 1901-O, 1901-S, 1904-O, 1907-S, 1913, 1914, and 1915. We see from the group that the saving, especially around the branch mints, was limited, as only one Philadelphia early date even makes the list.

In the case of top grades, the 1904-S at \$37,500 in MS-65 is easily the key (not counting the special 1892-O with the "micro O"). The grading services support that, as PCGS has seen only five examples of the 1904-S in MS-65 while NGC has seen just four and, with such totals, the 1904-S is actually inexpensive. The 1893-S is second at \$27,500 and it too is rarely seen with PCGS reporting just four examples in MS-65 and NGC only three in that grade, actually lower totals than the 1904-S. The 1901-S follows in third place in MS-65 at \$19,500, but a number of other dates are at least \$10,000 and up as there are many Barber half dollars that are not at all common in MS-65.

True to the pattern of no pattern, there are some surprises in terms of better MS-65 Barber halves. For example, consider the \$12,250 1894-S, \$16,500 1900-O and \$12,500 1900-S. They are dates found among the leaders in MS-60 prices, but their MS-65 prices suggest that specialists have discovered that some Barber half dollars can turn out to be much tougher based on condition.

While the top-condition pieces from New Orleans and San Francisco tend to garner the top prices in most dates, Philadelphia also produced some low-mintage coins, including the 1913, 1914 and 1915. Those three are generally known with their mintages under 200,000, but there are other good Philadelphia values such as the 1910 which had a mintage of just 418,551, yet that translates into a current price of just \$15 in G-4. For \$15 there are very few 20th century coins with mintages under 500,000 that you can buy, but the 1910 offers this opportunity to get a relatively low-mintage coin at a price not much higher than an available date in other grades.

The 1910 is just one example - a Barber half dollar collection offers many



similar values. There are over 20 dates with mintages of less than one million pieces, yet only one is priced at more than \$200 in G-4. A few others might be around \$100, but the vast majority are inexpensive when you consider all the factors working against a significant number still being available. The 1905 and 1905-O are typical examples with mintages under 700,000 but prices today of less than \$25 in G-4.

Another point worth considering is that no Barber half dollar had a mintage of above six million, yet the most available dates today are just \$11 in G-4 while an MS-60 is around \$400. At those prices, you have to feel you are getting good value for your money. Worth remembering is the fact that it is very possible that some of the more available dates may have been melted in some numbers, as realistically saving and collecting of Barber coins has never been strong.

Also worth considering today is that Barber half dollars have not been particularly active for many years. The current \$3,000 MS-65 price for an available date is basically the same price as back in 1998, and most of the Barber half prices have shown very little increase not just in years but rather in decades.

The Barber half dollar, more than most other U.S. coins, seems to have cycles in interest and prices, and it has not had an increase for a long time. That will not last forever, making a collection today potentially a wise choice as an opportunity to acquire tough pieces before prices adjust, as when Barber half dollars have their next upward cycle it is safe to assume that they will have some catching up to do in terms of prices. For now, however, the set in any grade contains great coins at great prices.

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*Editor's note: The following chart gives a comparison of the prices quoted for the date, mintmark, and grades mentioned in Paul Green's December 7, 2004 article and those given in the May 2013 Numismatic News "Coin Market."*

December 2006 article	May 2013 "Coin Market"
1892 in G-4 - \$27.50	\$29.50
in MS-60 - \$415.00	\$505.00
in MS-65 - \$3,000.00	\$3,150.00
1892-S in G-4 - \$230	\$250.00
in MS-60 - \$900.00	\$985.00
in MS-65 - \$5,250.00	\$4,850.00
1892-O in G-4 - \$275.00	\$310.00

in MS-60 - \$850.00	\$850.00
in MS-65 - \$4,200.00	\$4,350.00
1892-O with a small "O"	
in G-4 - \$2,000	\$2,000.00
in MS-65 - \$55,000	\$64,000.00
1893-S in G-4 - \$135.00	\$165.00
in MS-65 - \$27,500.00	\$25,000.00
1893-O in G-4 - \$32.50	\$36.00
1894-S in MS-65 - \$12,250.00	\$9,850.00
1895-S in G-4 - \$25.00	\$32.00
1896-S in G-4 - \$80.00	\$120.00
1896-O in G-4 - \$32.50	\$45.00
1897-S in G-4 - \$135.00	\$155.00
1897-O in G-4 - \$100.00	\$170.00
1898-O in G-4 - \$27.50	\$37.50
1900-O in MS-65 - \$16,500.00	\$15,500.00
1900-S in MS-65 - \$12,500.00	\$9,500.00
1901-S in MS-60 - \$1,800.00	\$1,950.00
in MS-65 - \$19,500.00	\$16,500.00
1904-S in G-4 - \$27.50	\$42.00
in MS-60 - \$6,250.00	\$9,850.00
in MS-65 - \$37,500.00	\$46,000.00
1910 in G-4 - \$15.00	\$20.00
1913 in G-4 - \$38.50	\$77.00
1914 in G-4 - \$68.50	\$145.00
1915 in G-4 - \$50.00	\$112.00



## BCCS "blind" Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send messages using a "Blind Carbon Copy" setting, which means everyone on the list gets the email, but nobody's email address is displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait for the next issue of the Journal. It is completely voluntary, and is open to members only. If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: [BCCS@BarberCoins.org](mailto:BCCS@BarberCoins.org) and your name will be added. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.



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# More Barber Bits

By Brad Sykes

While I was surprised to learn that my good friend Billy Arthur, Jr. had located an 1886 V-nickel in a 5-gallon bucket of mixed nickels (See Vol. 20 #3 *Journal* cover), I was even more surprised when he informed me that he was sending it to me for my collection, free of charge. When I asked why he did not keep it for himself, he told me, "Well, I don't really collect nickels, but I know you do, and I know you are pretty serious about it."

Well, this nickel filled a pretty serious hole. I was very pleased and proud to add it to my collection, and it has a special spot in my collection from an even more special friend.

As I recently upgraded my 1905-O micro-O dime to a VF20 example, I sent him my VG+/F example (please see the photo below).



Billy's generosity never ceases to amaze me, and I count myself both blessed and fortunate to count him as my friend and best "coin buddy." The "care packages" we swap in the mail are both fun to send and receive - on both ends.



Answers to the Barber Quarter Challenge on page 11

*Can you name 6 groups of thirteen on the Barber Quarter reverse?* the stars, arrows, small leaves, the stripes/lines on the shield, E PLURIBUS UNUM, and QUARTER DOLLAR

*What three years were Barber Quarters minted in all four mints?* 1907, 1908 and 1909

# Barber Coin Collectors' Society

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.
4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.
9. Makes sure its members have a say in the organization.
10. Is a not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purpose.



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# HERITAGE

## COIN & CURRENCY AUCTIONS

Among the \$58 Million realized at CSNS  
was one extraordinary Barber Half...



1892-O Barber Half, SP66★ NGC

**Realized \$108,688**

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While Walter Breen only mentioned the 1895-O and 1898-O half dollars as branch mint proofs in his 1977 study, the existence of two similar quality 1892-O half dollars lends credence to the possibility of these pieces being branch mint proofs celebrating the first Barber half dollars -- and the first half dollars struck in New Orleans since 1861.

This example was minted with great care, the planchet polished to a highly mirrored finish, and the dies showing some evidence of polishing or special preparation. The nearly perfect strike shows only a few minor weaknesses -- virtually identical to the Eliasberg coin. Certified as a Specimen by NGC, there is ample evidence to suggest striking for a special purpose, probably as a branch mint proof.

At HA.com, you can decide for yourself. Our full-color, enlargeable images are your best examination tool in the marketplace -- with magnification superior to examining the coin in person. View the enlarged image of this enigma and full information on some 40,000 Barber coins in our Auction Archives at HA.com/Coins.

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